

STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

*Colonel Danny R. Stebbins
Acting Commissioner*

*Lieutenant Edwin S. Henion
Chief of Staff*

February 22, 2011

Rep. Stephen Dargan, Co-Chairman
Sen. Joan Hartley, Co-Chairman
Public Safety and Security Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

HB 5100 AN ACT ALLOWING POLICE OFFICERS TO APPLY FOR SECURITY SERVICE LICENSES

The Department of Public Safety opposes this bill.

This proposed bill would amend CGS 29-161h to remove the current language which makes a retired police officer with at least 10 years experience eligible for a security service license and replace it with language that would make any active police officer eligible. This would drastically change existing public policy expressed throughout statutes that prohibits persons vested with police powers from being licensed for certain professions.

Under current law active members of state or municipal police departments are not eligible for licensure for a security service. CGS section 29-154c. of the general statutes states that persons vested with police powers are ineligible for license under the provisions of sections 29-153 to 29-161. CGS section 29-161j makes persons vested with police powers ineligible for licensure under the provisions of sections 29-161g to 29-161x, inclusive.

This restriction is also applicable for areas of licensing including Security, Private Detectives, Bondsman, and Bail Enforcement. CGS 29-145, which provides for licensing of professional bondsmen prohibits anyone vested with police powers from being licensed. CGS 29-152f prohibits persons vested with police powers from being licensed as bail enforcement agents.

There are situations where a person vested with police powers has a responsibility to make an arrest. What happens if this occurs while the person with police powers is working for a private entity that does not wish the arrest to be made? Conversely, what happens if a municipal police officer is working as a security guard in another town and his employer wants him to make a felony arrest? The jurisdictional, communication, liability and public safety issues involved are a few of the reasons these statutory prohibitions are in place.

There is a public policy that persons are entrusted with police powers to protect the public safety. The inherent potential of conflict between protecting public safety versus protecting private property makes it good public policy to prohibit persons with police powers from being simultaneously licensed as security guards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colonel Danny R. Stebbins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "D".

Colonel Danny R. Stebbins
ACTING COMMISSIONER